

**Statement by Major Groups- Farmer**  
**Statement made by Dr. Sarala Gopalan**

Cross-cutting Issues

I congratulate the Commission for emphasizing on technological developments, finance for R&D and Transfer of Technology.

Chairman, farmers, who account for 99 to 50% of population in all developing countries are in dire need of technology and capacity building to face the changing climates, markets and consumption patterns on the one side and depleting resources on the other.

Farmers' needs and access to resources and knowledge of their optimum use - including land, water, planting material have become the sheet anchor of sustainable development. Examples are watershed and catchment management according to sound ecological principles as agriculture uses 70% of water resources, carbon sinks in the watershed/catchment must include native and endemic plant species, Afforestation/reforestation and forestry management must move towards the goal of increasing indigenous plant species and the richness of endemic vegetation in the catchment areas.

Unless this is recognized as the most critical strategy neither the millennium Development Goals to eradicate poverty or wipe out hunger for food and energy can be achieved.

Farmers should be given incentives for preserving global agro-biodiversity.

It is also important to learn to act and work in an integrated and coordinated fashion by including farmers and other service providers in all real situations, beyond using these terms only in documents.

Thank you.

Sarala Gopalan